

THE DEBITAGE

Say it in French...and it's more scientific!

The Official Newsletter of the Modoc National Forest Heritage Program

Volume 2, Issue 2

February 2013

Special points of interest:

- Student Volunteer program since 1978. Hosted one student in 2012.
- Passport in Time since 1991. Three *PIT* projects completed in Summer 2012.
- International Volunteer Program inaugurated in 1992. One IV hosted in 2012.
- During the FY-12 field season 2,028 volunteer hours were contributed to the Heritage Program.
- During the FY-12 field season MDF crews recorded 127 new archaeological and historic sites.
- During the FY-12 field season MDF crews re-recorded, updated, monitored or re-flagged 312 archaeological and historic sites.
- During FY-12 over 200 site records were sent to CSU-Chico for trinomial assignments (including backlog site records).

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PARTNERSHIP WITH TRAILS WEST TO MARK EMIGRANT TRAILS



This summer Trails West will be placing 13 markers along the route of the 1848 Burnett Road, or Burnett Cutoff, part of the National Historic Trails System. Their steel markers are made out of recycled railroad ties and are found throughout the West marking the location of various historic wagon routes to California and Oregon. Eleven of the markers will be placed on lands administered by the Modoc National Forest and two on private lands.

The Burnett Road, also known as the Oregon-California Road, was blazed by Peter Burnett, an Oregon Territory settler, from the Willamette Valley to northern California. His route followed the 1846 Applegate Trail southward and eastward from Oregon to the Tule Lake region of NE California and then cut southward. This southward route may have been the route followed by military explorer John C. Frémont in the early 1840s. This southward route was intended to continue all the way to the regular emigrant trail crossing the Sierra Nevada's south of Lake Tahoe. However, upon entering Big Valley the Burnett party encountered fresh wagon tracks heading southwest – and so they decided to follow these. A few days later Burnett's "eighty axe-swinging Oregonians" caught up with the struggling Peter Lassen wagon train – by now with many wagons cut down to two-wheeled carts. The Oregonians helped Lassen complete his trail or "road" to his rancho west of Mt. Lassen. So Burnett's road connected the Applegate Trail to the Lassen Trail facilitating settlers and gold miners leaving Oregon Territory to the new California Territory. Peter Burnett would later become the first elected governor of the State of California.

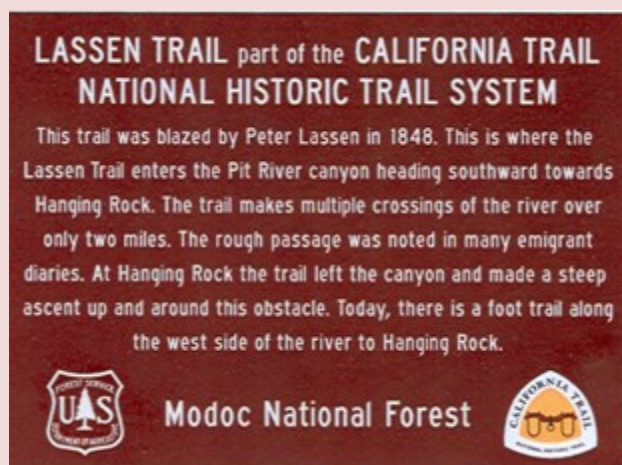
Nearly 70% of the Burnett Road lies within the Modoc National Forest. Starting in 1996 Section 110 crews using National Historic Trails and RO

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PARTNERSHIP (con't.)

Heritage Challenge Funds began the effort to relocate and record the historic traces of this historic emigrant trail. The major effort in 2012 by our Section 110 Crew (Michelle Fuller, Jin Lin and Maria Butcher) resulted in the recording of nearly all of the trail to its junction with the Lassen Trail at the bend of the Pit River north of Big Valley. Much of this was facilitated by Richard Silva and Don Buck of the Oregon-California Trails Association and Bob Black of Trails West, utilizing emigrant diaries and 19th Century General Land Office (GLO) survey plats – coupled with modern day satellite images and GPS – to identify possible vestiges of the route. The 13 Trails West markers will be placed along segments of the newly recorded traces.

Additionally, Bob Black and members of the Trails West group will help out the Modoc NF Heritage Program by placing the three interpretive signs purchased in 2012 for the Applegate Trail and the Lassen Trail. The group will also help with wording for one or two additional interpretive signs to be placed along the Burnett Road.



Two of the emigrant diaries examined at by Don Buck are presented below:

B. R. Biddle. August 29, 1849:

[After numerous crossings of the Pit River canyon on August 28th]....*Our road, during the forenoon was rough. Half past ten, we came to the much-desired Oregon road – the main trail leading from the head of the Willamette Valley to the Lower Valley of the Sacramento. Camped two miles beyond, and caught a fine mess of fish. During the afternoon, we had a smooth road. Encamped at the head of what Fremont calls the Round Valley (Big Valley).*

Alonzo Delano. September 2, 1849:

[During this day, Delano described going through the Pit River canyon and crossing the river “at least a dozen times.”]...*Three miles from our noon halt, after passing over the point of a hill [the hill bypass trail at Hanging Rock], the valley expanded, and here we came to the junction of the Oregon and California road. From the appearance of the Oregon fork, no teams had passed since spring, and all hope of further supplies was at once cut off...*

During our 2013 field season the last of the Burnett Cutoff should be relocated and recorded. This segment will allow us to complete our “Management Plan” for the over 90 miles of National Historic Trails on the Modoc National Forest.

NEW Region 5 Programmatic Agreement (PA) Signed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation!

On February 6, 2013, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation signed the new *Programmatic Agreement among the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5), California State Historic Preservation Officer, Nevada State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding the Processes for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for Management of Historic Properties by the National Forests of the Pacific Southwest Region*. Signature pages will be sent out to all Forest Supervisors in the region to concur with the PA.

This PA continues to streamline the required legal compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and requires Forests to continue to improve compliance with Section 110 of the act. Section 110 requires proactive management of historic resources beyond that required for regular undertakings. One of the current revisions in the new PA will help to facilitate evaluations for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places by allowing for Forest Archaeologists/Heritage Program Managers to undertake some evaluations without directly consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Other provisions in the PA allow for more “flag & treat” management options rather than straight “flag & avoid” protection measures for all NRHP eligible and unevaluated archaeological sites.

Stipulations within the PA identify the roles and responsibilities of FS personnel, including the Regional Forester, Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, Regional Heritage Program Leader, Heritage Program Manager, and Heritage Program Staff. Procedures and reporting requirements are detailed, as well as the difference in consultation/compliance when dealing with Native American “Traditional Cultural Properties” and “Sacred Sites.” Disagreements between the Forest Heritage Program Manager (HPM) and District Ranger/Forest Supervisor are forwarded to the Regional Heritage Program Leader/Regional Forester and/or the SHPO or Advisory Council.

Appendices to the PA include a definitions section, the complete Forest Service Manual FSM 2360: Heritage Program Management, and the complete 36CFR800: Protection of Historic Properties (as amended August 5, 2004). Also included are definitions of Exempt and Screened Undertakings, Approved Standard Protection Measures, Supplemental Guidelines for Determinations of Eligibility, and the Region 5 Hazardous Fuels Protocols (for Historic Preservation compliance).

Training for understanding and implementing the PA is required for Forest Line Officers and Staff Officers within the next three months. This is to insure that all relevant parties are aware of their roles and responsibilities under the new Programmatic Agreement. The training will be present by the Forest Heritage Program Manager.

NEW INDIAN SACRED SITES POLICY

In December 2012, USDA Secretary Vilsack released the *Report to the Secretary of Agriculture, USDA Policy and Procedures Review and Recommendations: INDIAN SACRED SITES*. The report highlights opportunities for the Forest Service to work more closely with Tribal governments in the protection, respectful interpretation, and appropriate access to Indian sacred sites. The release of this report follows nearly two years of “listening sessions” with tribal groups across the country. Under Executive Order 13007 of May 24, 1996 the definition of an Indian Sacred Site is:

Any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site.

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SACRED SITES (con't.)

There are many laws and associated regulations that pertain to sacred sites in general. For example, each of these laws in some instances may figure into considerations regarding sacred sites: National Historic Preservation Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and Religious Freedom Restoration Act. The final report to the Secretary summarizes the major laws, regulations and other policies that pertain to sacred sites.

The report also has a slightly broader concept of “*sacred places*” for National Forest lands. These are defined as:

Any specific location on National Forest System land, whether site, feature, or landscape, that is identified by an Indian tribe, or the religious societies, groups, clans, or practitioners of an Indian tribe, as having historically important spiritual and cultural significance to that entity, greater than the surrounding area itself. Sacred places may include but are not limited to geological features, bodies of water, burial places, traditional cultural places, biological communities, stone or earth structures, and cultural landscapes uniquely connecting historically important cultural sites, or features in any manner meaningful to the identifying tribe.

On the Modoc National Forest the most prominent “*sacred place*” is the Medicine Lake Highland Traditional Cultural Property that has also been determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The report also identifies tribal consultation documentation procedures and the establishment of a national consultation database to be developed and maintained by the Office Tribal Relation.

SUPPORT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Far Western Anthropological Research Group (FWARG) in Davis, California, is conducting a large scale study of Native American rock stack features. The focus of their work is in southern Oregon, where members of the Klamath Tribes constructed these features for a variety of spiritual uses for a very long time and still use some of them today. Many of the largest rock cairns and circular structures are quite conspicuous and have been widely recognized since the early 1900s, and government agencies like the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service have made efforts to protect them from being damaged by road building, logging, and other related projects.

But not all rock stack features are conspicuous. In fact, they can sometimes be composed of only one or two rocks strategically placed on top of larger base rocks, with some pointing toward important spiritual landmarks like Mount Shasta, while others with no apparent orientation at all. These smaller, less conspicuous features don't typically draw the same level of attention and protection as the larger ones. This situation began to change, however, with construction of the Ruby Pipeline, a 42-inch natural gas pipeline originating in Wyoming and ending in Malin, Oregon. During this project, several tribal and agency personnel agreed that there was a need to develop better methods to identify, understand, and protect these features, but that such a study would have to take place after the pipeline was completed due to the tight scheduling constraints associated with the project.

Far Western was selected to conduct the study. While their ultimate goal is to improve identification methods, consulting closely with both tribal and agency people, they are also interested in searching out the larger geographic distribution of these features and the cultural traditions that created them. As a result, they are working with Modoc National Forest Archaeologist Gerry Gates, to learn more about the results of the Boles Creek Project (see *The Debitage* Volume 2, Issue 1), and will also be reviewing the forest-wide archaeological data base to ascertain their distribution in that portion of northeastern California....Bill Hildebrandt, Ph.D., FWARG



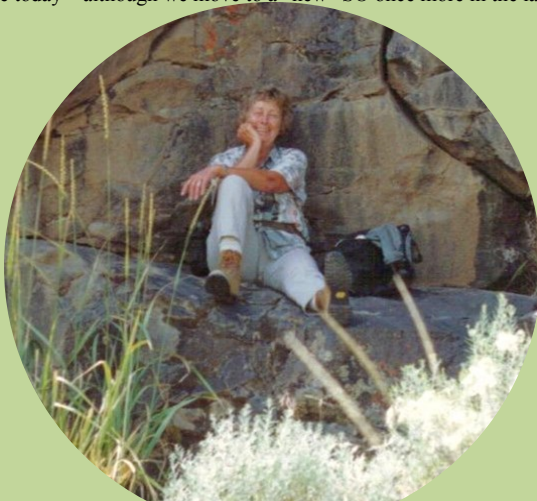
HERITAGE RESOURCES on the Modoc National Forest: A “Blast from the Past” Photo Gallery – the late 90’s



Vicki Adkison at her desk in the new Supervisor's Office about 1996 (and she is still there today – although we move to a “new” SO once more in the latter part of 2013).



A *Passport In Time* volunteer with an historic find at the “Battle of Scorpion Point” Modoc War site on the DHRD in 1998. (Yes! We actually had T-shirts!)

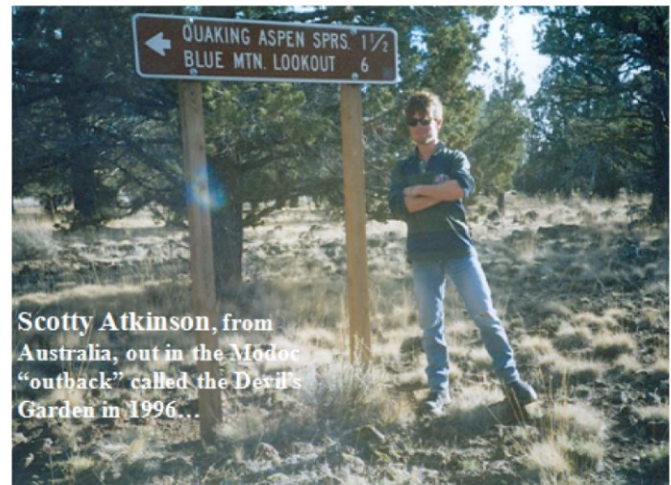
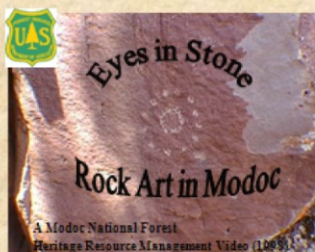


Beverly Babbini, Archaeological Technician, out in the Devil's Garden.



In 1998 we had a “Rock Art” videotape for public education produced by two of our International Trainees -

Christopher Dooks, a free-lance videographer, and **Sarah Thompson**, a writer/artist, both from England, had no previous experience in Archaeology, but did a great job on this project.



Scotty Atkinson, from Australia, out in the Modoc “outback” called the Devil's Garden in 1996...

→ You can still watch this video on YouTube today!

REMEMBER!
NOW IS THE TIME TO ENROLL IN THE 2013 *PASSPORT IN TIME*
BOLES CREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT IV
PROJECT BY GOING TO www.passportintime.com

BOLES CREEK ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT IV FOR 2013

There will be three *Passport In Time* sessions held in 2013 for the continuing archaeological surveys along Boles Creek in the central portion of the Devil's Garden Lava Platform. The dates for the sessions are scheduled for:

Session #1 - June 24 to June 28

Session #2 - July 8 to July 12

Session #3 - July 22 to 26

Join us for our fourth year at Boles Creek! This area is an expansive, prehistoric lava flow with sparse vegetation, rough, broken lava rock, juniper trees, and sage brush flats in a semi-arid region that covers approximately 500,000 acres of the Modoc National Forest. The Boles Creek system cut through this difficult and broken terrain long ago. It was home to a variety of prehistoric peoples, evidenced by numerous archaeological sites containing rock rings, rock stacks, and rock art (petroglyphs). In 1985 and 1987, inventories of Boles Creek identified many of these sites, but they were limited in scope and superficial in their descriptions. We return to Boles Creek this year to continue our in-depth study of the cultural footprints left behind by the area's prehistoric inhabitants.



A petroglyph recorded in 2012.

PIT volunteers and FS staff will survey and record archaeological sites and features along Boles Creek over a period of three (3) weeks. Our collected data will be used to put together a nomination for placement on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Bring your backpacks and hiking boots, and join us again this summer as we hike through the past in The Devil's Garden!

Modoc National Forest line officers, staff and employees are encouraged to come out and join one of these *PIT* sessions for a day or two – please contact Gerry Gates, Forest Archaeologist, to make a reservation to visit one of the sessions. Come out and learn something about the prehistoric heritage resources on *your* National Forest!

**Please enjoy, but do not destroy your
American heritage!**

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